Athelhampton,
Saturday.

Dearest,

I really don't think it worth while for you to come all this way for such a short time on Sunday — especially if you've not been well — Are you better? do take care. I would offer to come to Poole & have a picnic, but I've promised not to walk at all, & I suppose I must abide by it. Of course we could give you a bed on Monday if

you could come, but I suppose you
can't — Its a great nuisance
altogether, but I'm sure
you'd better not bicycle
all those miles in this heat.
I'll send your sugar by post.
Have you been dining
too much?
I've finally taken Ethel —
the Cook — after a good
many difficulties with
many others.
the
ZB.

Of course we shall be in on
Sunday if you should come
but don't make any effort.

HAMILL 12/29/65

26 July 1917?

Telephone:
Richmond 496.

Hogarth House
Paradise Road
Richmond
Surrey.

Thursday.

1919

Dearest,

We should very much like you a Duncan to do a book of wood cuts - in fact we are getting a machine that is specially good for printing pictures, as we want to do pictures just as much as writing. Of course they would take much less time to do. At present We've promised to do Katherine Mansfield's story, but Alix is probably coming as apprentice, so that we could get on quicker, & might do your book before Christmas. However, there will be many details to discuss, which we could do when we meet. The difficulty with Carrington's wood cuts was that she didn't cut the margins low enough, & we had to take very light impressions, in order not not to get black marks on the margin - which even so we didn't altogether avoid. But do go ahead, & get your book arranged.

went to see the head of a great printing school in the city the other day, & he is going to look out for a press at a sale, & we shall get it by the autumn. It will be quite easy to print a large number of copies on it — as one does at least 4 sheets at a time. I suppose the size would either be the size of our book, or twice as large — however we could tell you more later. It is tremendous fun, & it makes all the difference writing anything one likes, & not for an Editor.

The servant problems are really more interesting than anything else. On Monday night I got a letter from the cook, saying she did not like a basement, & would not come. I thought this very odd, as the after seeing the kitchen she had told me she thought it perfectly all right, & she had told Nelly the same thing. Also, it seemed queer that she had waited a week before telling me. The question then was whether to get another cook, or to ask Nelly + Lottie to stay on. It seemed absurd not to ask them, as they were so sorry to go, & so I did; & find them delighted to stay, even though it means going to Arkham, & only having no tweeny. I didn't like Mary the cook at all, when I saw her here, so I am extremely glad to be rid of her. It seemed very hard on Ethel, but I wrote at once explaining & sent her a months wages. Yesterday she rang me up (from a post office) & said that she was completely taken by surprise: the cook had never told her she wasn't coming until the night before, & then had told her that she was going to be married

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& therefore would not take a new place for a short time. I said that she told me it was the basement; but Ethel said this was quite untrue, as she had found no fault with it. I also told her that the cook was staying on with Mary H. (as you said) — which was entirely new to her, & made her very angry. She said Mrs H: had spoken to her that morning, seeming very confused, but had said nothing about the cook staying. However, Ethel most wanted us to realise that she hadn't any share in it — & also to thank you for having taken so much trouble. I'm afraid she wanted to come to Ashcham, but she was very nice about it. I think its probable that Mary H. offered the cook a rise, & persuaded her to stay on; anyhow I'm thankful, as its much nicer to keep Lottie — Nelly. & they have made up their minds to put up with Ashcham. The amusing thing is that they had feared to go to Mary H: after all, if on seeing the cook & Ethel they came to the conclusion that there wasn't anything in their stories against her. However the first words they said (which they wont repeat) determined them to have nothing to do with it, & the cook in particular said that she strongly advised them not to, & though she had only been 6 weeks there, it seemed like 6 year! — So I dont suppose she'll stay very long. I feel slightly cross & malicious against Mary H: as they didn't

Crave me much time to get a cook, nebbouring Nelly & Lottie had'nt been ready to stay on. But isn't it all fascinating?
We're coming down on Friday - a old ke has asked to come for Bank Holiday & Alix after that, so I'm afraid I shan't be able to come to you that week. But I expect you'll be overflowing. People simply clamour to be asked now - I suppose we make a very nice contrast. I'm afraid I shall have to be rather careful about coming over, as Leonard has been in rather a state again & I've promised to be very quiet. I feel all right but I've gone down rather in weight though I still weigh only just under 10 stones, which is half a stone more a month beyond what I've ever weighed. I don't see how one can expect to keep the results of a rest cure permanently. But I shall come a stay the night some time. Tell Sayer the Squires accent at Arkeham. So he can get blankets a stay there if he likes. It will be empty till we come. Leonard started to go a bee gee. but found both his tyres punctured & so had to come back. We had another swarm in the attics - but I must ask Barney about them. We shall expect anyone who likes to come on Sat Sunday or Monday.

Yours B.

HAMILL 12/29/69

? 4 August

1917

Ashcham.

Sunday.

Dearest,

We thought of having a picnic at Forle to-morrow. Monday. We shall be at the Post office there at 4 (or shortly before) & we shall bring some food & tea. It would be very nice if you could meet us at the P. Office, & we could go up into the wood. I find that Edward thinks this much less tiring than for me to go to Charleston!

I sent a wire which I

daresay won't get to you- However
that old servant, Emily Hunt,
has suddenly turned up, & is
posting this in Lewes.

We can't bring enough tea for
more than 2, but we could
bring enough eatables for
more, I expect. beyond 4-15

We shant wait, if you don't
turn up, but I hope you may
be able to. with the brats.
I'm taking it for granted your not
coming today, as I don't much
expect you will.

We're asked Pilpant £200 for
the page. Do you think that's about
right?

V3

NYPL

HAMILL 12/29/69

30 Aug 1917

918?

Thursday. Asheham.

Dearest,

We didn't start on the Sunday, as it seemed hopeless. Our trees are almost like winter now. We have almost entirely upon roast apples. I'm afraid its not much good your bringing Roger over on Sunday, as we have Mrs Woolf, Bella, Herbert, & a Norwegian whom I've never seen. On Monday we shall be alone (thank God!) & it would be very nice if he & Gs could (any time) come; if he hasn't already gone. Tomorrow (Friday) we shall be alone, & in about 5.30 (we go to Eastbourne to buy Glidine) if it were fine, & you could come over.

We shall be alone most of next week, until Friday, when we have Pernel Strachey, Philip Morrell, L Sydney Waterlow - However

love -

You'd better come whenever you can.

God! its now raining again - we thought it was really fine at last.

I suppose Barbara will now be permanently indoors + Nick too.

I think donkeys are the nicest animals in the world.

NYPL

I wish the children would come again. It's could stable the beast.

Love V.W.

HAMILL 12/29/69

Asheham House,
Rodmell,
Lewes.

Friday

Dearest,
We really might be in London for all we see of each other, but I see it can't be helped — There Tuesday people always seem to flock.
If it's fine on Sunday, we thought we might try & have a picnic, at the usual place, at 5. Sydney & Philip would look much like to see you I'm sure.
Comes today, & I'll bring her too, if she doesn't think it too far.
They go on Tuesday; & I think I could bicycle over to tea on Wednesday & that suits you.
Might I come for lunch, & go back after tea? Please say if you have other occupations.
I could come for 2 night when Duncan & Bunny go; in fact, our people are only coming for the week end now. So

I shall be much more free. But I dont suppose this applies to you. I'm afraid you've had an awful doing. Has Barbara come back? I made such a pointed remark to her about staying at Charleston (not thinking of her but of Alix) that I hope she won't settle down again. I hear from Alix that she's gone to Ireland for a month with Norton. I think it would be a most suitable match. She is determined to do the printing, I'm afraid.

You might send a line if you can't come on Sunday; otherwise we shall come to the same place.

My servants say that they have actually engaged Asheham this year - but they say it's all owing to Charleston!

Yr B.

NYPL

HAMILL 12/29/69